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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
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9 United States of America,) No. CV 12-0887-PHX-GMS (JFM)
10 Plaintiff,) No. CR 11-1093-PHX-GMS
11 v.) **ORDER**
12 Gabriel Contreras-Garcia,)
13 Defendant/Movant.)
14 _____)

15 Movant Gabriel Contreras-Garcia, who is confined in the Limestone County Detention
16 Center in Groesbeck, Texas, filed a *pro se* Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence
17 by a Person in Federal Custody pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Movant also filed an
18 Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*.¹ (Doc. 2.) The Court will summarily dismiss
19 the motion.

20 **I. Procedural History**

21 Pursuant to a plea agreement, Movant pleaded guilty to illegal re-entry after
22 deportation, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a) & (b)(1). The plea agreement provided for
23 a sentencing range of 3 to 63 months depending upon his criminal history. On October 3,
24 2011, the Court sentenced Movant to a 27-month term of imprisonment followed by three
25 years on supervised release.

26 Movant asserts two grounds for ineffective assistance of counsel. In Ground One, he
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¹ The Application will be denied because there is no filing fee for a § 2255 motion.

1 alleges that counsel should have asked for a lower sentence, specifically, a two-point
2 downward departure pursuant to an Attorney General Memorandum of April 28, 1995. In
3 Ground Two, he alleges that counsel rendered ineffective assistance by failing to argue that
4 when an alien defendant refuses to stipulate to deportation, a provision of the Sentencing
5 Reform Act can provide for deportation as a condition of supervised release.

6 **II. Summary Dismissal**

7 A district court must summarily dismiss a § 2255 application “[i]f it plainly appears
8 from the motion, any attached exhibits, and the record of prior proceedings that the moving
9 party is not entitled to relief.” Rule 4(b), Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings for the
10 United States District Courts. When this standard is satisfied, neither a hearing nor a
11 response from the government is required. See Marrow v. United States, 772 F.2d 525, 526
12 (9th Cir. 1985); Baumann v. United States, 692 F.2d 565, 571 (9th Cir. 1982). In this case,
13 the record shows that summary dismissal under Rule 4(b) is warranted because Movant has
14 waived the right to bring a § 2255 motion.

15 **III. Waiver**

16 Movant has waived challenges to his sentence. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
17 has found that there are “strict standards for waiver of constitutional rights.” United States
18 v. Gonzalez-Flores, 418 F.3d 1093, 1102 (9th Cir. 2005). It is impermissible to presume
19 waiver from a silent record, and the Court must indulge every reasonable presumption
20 against waiver of fundamental constitutional rights. United States v. Hamilton, 391 F.3d
21 1066, 1071 (9th Cir. 2004). In this action, Movant’s waiver was clear, express, and
22 unequivocal.

23 Plea agreements are contractual in nature, and their plain language will generally be
24 enforced if the agreement is clear and unambiguous on its face. United States v. Jeronimo,
25 398 F.3d 1149, 1153 (9th Cir. 2005). A defendant may waive the statutory right to bring a
26 § 2255 action challenging the length of his sentence. United States v. Pruitt, 32 F.3d 431,
27 433 (9th Cir. 1994); United States v. Abarca, 985 F.2d 1012, 1014 (9th Cir. 1992). The only
28 claims that cannot be waived are claims that the waiver itself was involuntary or that

1 ineffective assistance of counsel rendered the waiver involuntary. See Washington v.
2 Lampert, 422 F.3d 864, 871 (9th Cir. 2005) (holding that a plea agreement that waives the
3 right to file a federal habeas petition pursuant to § 2254 is unenforceable with respect to an
4 ineffective assistance of counsel claim that challenges the voluntariness of the waiver); Pruitt,
5 32 F.3d at 433 (expressing doubt that a plea agreement could waive a claim that counsel
6 erroneously induced a defendant to plead guilty or accept a particular plea bargain); Abarca,
7 985 F.2d at 1014 (expressly declining to hold that a waiver forecloses a claim of ineffective
8 assistance or involuntariness of the waiver); see also Jeronimo, 398 F.3d at 1156 n.4
9 (declining to decide whether waiver of all statutory rights included claims implicating the
10 voluntariness of the waiver).

11 “Collateral attacks based on ineffective assistance of counsel claims that are
12 characterized as falling outside [the category of ineffective assistance of counsel claims
13 challenging the validity of the plea or the waiver] are waivable.” United States v.
14 Cockerham, 237 F.3d 1179, 1187 (10th Cir. 2001). See also Williams v. United States, 396
15 F.3d 1340, 1342 (11th Cir. 2005) (joining the Second, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Tenth
16 Circuits in holding that “a valid sentence-appeal waiver, entered into voluntarily and
17 knowingly, pursuant to a plea agreement, precludes the defendant from attempting to attack,
18 in a collateral proceeding, the sentence through a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel
19 during sentencing.”).

20 As part of his plea agreement, Movant made the following waiver:

21 Providing the defendant’s sentence is consistent with this agreement,
22 the defendant waives (1) any and all motions, defenses, probable cause
23 determinations, and objections that the defendant could assert to the indictment
24 or information; and (2) any right to file an appeal, any collateral attack, and
25 any other writ or motion that challenges the conviction, an order of restitution
26 or forfeiture, the entry of judgment against the defendant, or any aspect of the
27 defendant’s sentence, including the manner in which the sentence is
28 determined, including but not limited to any appeals under 18 U.S.C. § 3742
and motions under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2241 and 2255. **The defendant
acknowledges that if the Court has sentenced the defendant according to
the terms of this agreement, this waiver shall result in the dismissal of any
appeal, collateral attack, or other motion the defendant might file
challenging the conviction, order of restitution or forfeiture, or sentence
in this case.**

(Doc. 23 at 5) (emphasis added). Movant indicated in his plea agreement that he had

1 discussed the terms with his attorney, agreed to the terms and conditions, and entered into
2 the plea voluntarily. (Id. at 6-7, 8.)

3 Movant's assertions in his § 2255 motion all pertain to sentencing and not to the
4 voluntariness of the waiver. Movant expressly waived issues regarding the imposition of
5 sentence and expressly waived the right to bring a § 2255 motion. The Court accepted his
6 plea as voluntarily made. Consequently, the Court finds that Movant waived the sentencing
7 issues raised in his § 2255 motion. Thus, the Court will summarily dismiss the motion.
8 Accordingly,

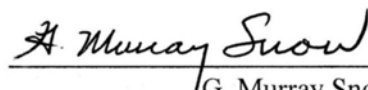
9 **IT IS ORDERED:**

10 (1) Movant's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* is **denied as moot**. (Doc. 2.)

11 (2) The Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence Pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
12 § 2255 (Doc. 25 in CR11-1093-PHX-GMS) is **denied** and the civil action opened in
13 connection with this Motion (CV12-0887-PHX-GMS (JFM)) is **dismissed with prejudice**.
14 The Clerk of Court must enter judgment accordingly.

15 (3) Pursuant to Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing Section 2255 Cases, in the event
16 Movant files an appeal, the Court declines to issue a certificate of appealability because
17 reasonable jurists would not find the Court's procedural ruling debatable. See Slack v.
18 McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000).

19 DATED this 15th day of June, 2012.

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22 G. Murray Snow
23 United States District Judge
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